

Thanks to the Dougherty Valley High School student and alumnus run STEAM Foundation we can offer 3D printing for educational purposes. Our MakerBot Sketch printer can print small jobs. Some days, you may be able to watch the printer running as it prints a patron's 3D design.

If you would like to print a 3D design, please complete the form at: [Dougherty Station Library 3D Printing Design Submission Form](#)

Thanks to the donation of filament from the STEAM Foundation, and future supplies donated by the San Ramon Library Foundation, there is no charge for print jobs, currently. Each household may submit one print job per week (fees and file submission frequency are subject to change). Contra Costa County Library 3D Printer Regulations are in the submission form. Please read carefully.

FAQ

Q. What is the procedure to use the 3D printer at the Dougherty Station Library?

A. The procedure is for you to download or create an STL file and submit it online. We ask that you fill out a [3D Printing Design Submission Form](#) and submit your file a Dropbox (link provided in the form). Once a week, library staff will gather files to be sent to the printer. If any errors are detected in your file that renders it unable to print, you will receive an email stating so. Typically, print jobs will be completed in a week, depending upon staff availability. You will receive an email when your print job is complete and have a week to pick it up.

Q. Will the library teach me how to make 3D items?

A. Currently, library staff are not able to assist users in creating 3D models. However, if you would like to learn there are several free online tutorials, videos, and software options available (thingiverse.com and printables.com). The library hosts 3D Design Workshops periodically. Search our website CCCLIB.org/events for programs.

Q. How long does it take to print? When will my job be ready?

A. We accept print jobs that take up to 3 hours. If the estimated completion time is longer than that, we will need to resize your design to a smaller size. When you complete the 3D Printing Design Submission form, you will inform the library if we have your permission to resize your design. If you answer yes, we will resize your design to fit within our time and space constraints. If you answer no, then we will email that we are unable to print your 3D design.

Q. When will my job be ready?

Most print jobs will be completed in one week. We will email you when your job is complete.

Q. What kind of 3D printer do you have?

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A. Our printer is a MakerBot Sketch.

Q. Can the library edit my print job for me?

A. Library Staff will not edit your print job beyond adding supports (temporary structures added to stabilize overhangs during printing). If other changes are needed for a successful printing job, we will alert you so you can make the changes and resubmit. If your file is too large or takes too long to print, we will need to resize your design to a smaller size.

Q. What files do you accept for 3D printing?

A. We only accept .stl files. STL is short for STereoLithography. STLs are a very compact file and only contain data on the dimensions of an object and nothing else.

Q. What are the print color options?

A. Available filament colors are listed as options on the 3D Printing Design Submission form.

Q. Can my job be printed in multiple colors?

A. No, the library can only print a single color.

Q. Can I bring my own printer filament?

A. No, the library will only use the filament we have in stock.

Q. What kind of filament do you use?

A. The library currently uses PLA filament.

Q. How often can I print at the library?

A. As a courtesy to others, we ask that you please limit your submissions to one print job per household per week. (subject to change)

Q. Can I bring a print request on my own SD card?

A. No, all print jobs must be submitted via the online form.

Q. Will my print job be food safe?

A. No, PLA print jobs are not considered food safe.

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Q. Can I print...?

A. All print jobs must follow Contra Costa County Library 3D Printer Regulations. The regulations are included in the 3D Printing Design Submission form.

Q. What happens if the print fails?

A. If a print job fails the library will email you. If you choose, you can download or create a new design and submit it along with a new 3D Printing Design Submission form.

Q. How big can my print job be?

A. Print jobs can be max of 3"x3"x3" and must be able to be printed within the 3-hour time limit.

Q. How long do I have to pick up my print job?

A. You will receive an email when the print job is completed. You have one week from the date of the email to pick up the completed print job.

Q. What happens if I don't pick it up in one week?

A. Items not picked up are put in lost and found where they will be addressed in accordance with Contra Costa County Library policy.

Q. Can I print multiple items in one submission?

A. No. Please submit only one item at a time.

Q. How much does it cost?

A. 3D printing at the library is for educational purposes and as such there is no fee. The STEAM Foundation and the San Ramon Library Foundation are generously providing the PLA filament. Fees are subject to change.

Q. Do you need a library card to submit a print request?

A. No. However, we strongly recommend you get a library card to take advantage of the many resources and services available at the Contra Costa County Library.